

2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

20 May 2005

Original: English

New York, 2-27 May 2005

Implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

Report submitted by Nigeria

1. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has contributed immensely to international peace and stability. Nigeria is proud to have contributed to this process by renouncing the nuclear option. Nigeria has always reaffirmed her commitment to the Treaty as a vital instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security. As a demonstration of this commitment, and her strong belief in a nuclear-free world, she had concluded safeguards agreement with IAEA and ratified the Treaty of Pelindaba on the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. Nigeria will continue to remain faithful to her obligations and responsibilities under the Treaty.
2. Nigeria has continued to abide by its commitment to NPT and has never received nor solicited any transfer of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices. Nigeria does not manufacture and did not acquire or receive control over nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.
3. The existence of nuclear weapons has continued to pose serious threat to the international community. In this regard, and bearing in mind that NPT is the only legally-binding international agreement that commits nuclear-weapon States to nuclear disarmament, Nigeria has always called on States parties to reaffirm their commitment to the full implementation of the Treaty in all its aspects, particularly article VI. Nigeria believes that this should be one of the major challenges for States parties. Nigeria also underlines the importance and urgency of achieving the universality of Treaty.
4. The need to confront this challenge is in keeping with the resolve of the global community in the Millennium Declaration to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. In this connection, Nigeria also recalls a similar commitment in the same declaration to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways and means of eliminating nuclear danger. The urgent



need to confront the threat of nuclear weapons is particularly relevant now as the Millennium Declaration becomes due for review. Nigeria has always supported all resolutions at the United Nations General Assembly and other multilateral forums related to nuclear disarmament, and will continue to do so.

5. Pending the total elimination of those weapons, it is imperative for Member States to agree on the establishment of a legally-binding international instrument under which the nuclear-weapon States will undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States. The International Court of Justice had reinforced this principle in 1996 in its advisory opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. Nigeria has expressed its support for that advisory opinion because she firmly believes that nuclear non-proliferation can only be meaningfully sustained if non-nuclear-weapon States that have renounced the development or possession of nuclear weapons are themselves assured, under legally-binding agreement, against the use or threat of use of such weapons. By transforming the disparate assurances declared by the nuclear powers into a unified, legally-binding obligation, the nuclear powers will not only be fulfilling part of their commitments towards these States but also reinforcing the non-proliferation regime against possible future setbacks. Nigeria also believes that the total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

6. Nigeria supports Final Document adopted by consensus at the 2000 Review Conference, as well as the decision on Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference as valuable platforms for the review process and for full implementation of NPT. In particular, Nigeria endorses the 13 practical steps adopted by the 2000 Review Conference for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement the unequivocal commitment undertaken by States parties to accomplish the total elimination of their arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. Nigeria has always expressed grave concern at certain developments, including the emergence of new strategic doctrines in some nuclear-weapon States, which have shrouded the expected implementation of these important commitments with uncertainty. Nigeria has always called upon States parties to reaffirm their commitment to the obligations they assumed in 2000 under the 13 Practical Steps and to the Treaty as a whole.

7. Nigeria supports the total elimination of nuclear testing. As a demonstration of this support, Nigeria ratified Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 2001 and has always voted in favour of General Assembly resolutions calling for entry into force of CTBT. Nigeria has always participated actively in the Conferences for the entry into force of the Treaty. Nigeria has always stressed the significance of achieving universal adherence to CTBT, by all nuclear-weapon States, which, among others, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. She has consistently called upon all States whose ratification is necessary for the Treaty to enter into force to do so urgently to enable the Treaty to enter into force without further delay. Pending its entry into force, the nuclear-weapon States and other nuclear powers should maintain the moratorium on nuclear-weapon-test explosions. Nigeria believes, however, that observance of the existing moratorium on nuclear testing should not substitute for a comprehensive ban on nuclear-weapon testing.

8. Nigeria has acknowledged the importance of bilateral efforts by the two major nuclear powers in setting in motion the process of reducing strategic offensive nuclear weapons as a positive step towards nuclear disarmament. Nigeria, however, shares the view of the vast majority of Member States that reduction in deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons. Of equal significance is the need for these efforts to be transparent and verifiable.

9. Nigeria has consistently called for the establishment in the Conference on Disarmament of an Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral, and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, as agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. At the Conference on Disarmament, Nigeria had advocated a reliable verification mechanism for such instrument that will not exclude existing stockpiles.

10. Nigeria has supported all General Assembly resolutions calling on the Conference on Disarmament to agree to commence work on substantive issues before it as soon as possible. Nigeria has continued to reiterate its full support for the Five Ambassadors Proposal as a mechanism for breaking the existing impasse in reaching a work programme for the Conference on Disarmament.

11. Nigeria recognizes the important role of IAEA in promoting international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and has discouraged any moves by IAEA Member States that could hinder the peaceful application of nuclear technology as provided for in the Treaty. In this connection, Nigeria has urged States parties to adopt appropriate measures to preserve the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination as contained in the Treaty. She has, however, underscored the need for all States parties to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards as essential for building confidence in this respect. On its part, the Nigerian Government has established an agency that will regulate all nuclear-related activities in the country in conformity with the relevant provisions of NPT and the Statute of the IAEA. Nigeria has signed the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology which has cooperative arrangement with the IAEA.

12. Nigeria has continued to support efforts aimed at establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in all regions of the world on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States in the region concerned. She has consistently reaffirmed the need for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. Nigeria participated actively at the international Conference of States parties and signatories to Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone treaties that took place in Mexico from 26 to 28 April 2005 which represents another demonstration of her belief in advancing the objectives of nuclear non-proliferation.